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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the English translation of a note verbale, dated 9 November 1999, addressed to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning infiltration into Iranian territory by an Iraqi armed group (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD-HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Note verbale dated 9 November 1999 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq and has the honour to state the following:

According to the reports received from the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 9 November 1999 at 0200 hours, 18 armed Iraqi bandits infiltrated the border of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Chazaba area (Iranian Safaria Sentry Post) and, after having tied up the Iranian local tribesmen, stole their cattle. Following the clash between the border guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the armed Iraqi bandits, they fled to the Iraqi interior leaving behind the cattle.

This is to recall that infiltration by armed Iraqi bandits into Iranian territory and harassment of the Iranian tribesmen settled in the Hoor Al-Azim area are not unprecedented. On 17 September 1999, 33 fishing boats, belonging to the Iranian tribesmen living in the same area, were stolen by the same type of armed Iraqi bandits.

While protesting against the acts of infiltration and illegal entry into Iranian territory committed by the Iraqi armed group, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran holds the Iraqi Government responsible for the consequences of the above-mentioned armed acts resulting from its failure to take precautionary measures and live up to its bilateral and international obligations, and emphatically expects the Iraqi Government to adopt appropriate measures aimed at restoring security in the area and preventing recurrence of such acts in the future.

Obviously, the border police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, based in the area, aware of the sensitivity of the existing border issues and of the need for restoring security in the area, takes necessary steps to this effect.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.